POLIPODIUM Filix-femina.

Sp. Pl. 1552. *Ray Syn.* 121. *Flo. Scot.* 673. *Flo. Ang.* 458.
Ger. Em. 1130. *No.* 3.

TAB. XXV.

FEMALE FERN.

THE roots are large, hard, and woody, covered with brown tough ſcales, very fibrous, and taking firm hold in the ground.

The firſt leaves from one to four feet high; the rib ſmooth, furrowed on the upper ſide, round or gibbous on the under, gently waved near the top for the inſertion of the ſecond leaves, while young a few chaffy brown ſcales on the lower part; the general outline of the leaf lance-ſhaped, broad in the middle, acutely pointed above.

Second leaves from fifteen to forty pairs, broadeſt at the baſe, thence gradually diminiſhing and terminating in a fine extended point; pairs placed more remote below, the firſt three inches from the next, coming nearer each other gradually upwards; near the top the triple diviſion ceaſes, the third leaves are loſt in the ſecond, and the ſecond in lobes which terminate the whole in a fine feathered point.

Third